

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and the suggestions for amending the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

With regard to the objection to claim 15, the foregoing amendments should render such objection moot.

Claims 1 – 16 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over USP 5,949,968, hereinafter *Gentile*, in view of the article "Mixed Raster Content...", hereinafter *Queiroz*, and JP 05-110737, hereinafter *Hiroshi*.

In response to the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the description of the compression method selection unit for selecting from among a plurality of compression methods. As now amended, the unit displays a plurality of compression methods on the display for each region, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression methods in accordance with a type of the region from among the plurality of compression methods, and wherein for each type of region, the selection unit displays only compression methods from compression methods in the plurality of compression methods that are designated for the type of region. See paragraphs [0063] and [0064] and Figure 5 of the published application for support for the amended language.

None of the applied references teach the claimed combination that includes the compression method selection unit that displays a plurality of compression methods on the display for each region, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression methods in accordance with a type of the region from among the

plurality of compression methods. As a result of the claimed combination, even if the user does not have particular knowledge regarding compression methods, the user can select a compression method for each region from among a plurality of compression methods suitable for each type of region.

Furthermore, according to another aspect of the present invention, a plurality of compression methods are available for ***each type of region***, i.e., character, graphic, and photographic. One of the plurality of compression methods is selected for processing each region. For example, claim 1 includes a compression method selection unit for selecting from among a plurality of compression methods, one of the plurality of compression methods for each region for the compression process to be performed for each region, wherein the selection unit selects the compression method in accordance with a type of the region from among the plurality of compression methods, and *wherein for each type of region, the selection unit selects a compression method only from compression methods in the plurality of compression methods that are designated for the type of region.*

Although Gentile may teach using a different processing method for each type of region, Gentile does not teach or suggest providing a *plurality* of processing methods *for each type of region* and selecting a particular one of the plurality of methods for each region. For example, Gentile only suggests using the LZW technique for text, only suggests runlength encoding for graphics, and only suggests JPEG for images. See column 5, lines 21 – 25. Thus, Gentile does not teach or suggest selecting one of a plurality of compression methods (schemes, as used in Gentile) for each type of region.

The Examiner now relies on *Queiroz* and *Hiroshi* to allegedly teach making available a plurality of methods for each region. However, none of the applied references teach the claimed combination that includes the compression method selection unit that displays a plurality of compression methods on the display for each region, enabling a user to select one of the plurality of compression methods in accordance with a type of the region from among the plurality of compression methods. As a result of the claimed combination, even if the user does not have particular knowledge regarding compression methods, the user can select a compression method for each region from among a plurality of compression methods suitable for each type of region.

Accordingly, claim 1 of the present application is patentable over the applied prior art. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the Examiner's alleged motivation for combining the three references at a later time if appropriate and necessary.

With regard to claims 2 – 5, for the compression process mode setting unit, the Examiner relies upon column 2, lines 33 – 41 of *Gentile*. The cited section of *Gentile* merely indicates that a plurality of factors are balanced when selecting a compression algorithm. There is no teaching or suggestion of altering the selection of the algorithm based on a preferred process mode. Nor is there any discussion as to how such compression factors may be balanced based on a selected preferred process mode.

Furthermore, claims 2 - 5 have now been amended to recite that the compression process mode setting unit displays a plurality of compression process modes for selection. The applied prior art also does not teach the compression process setting unit that displays a plurality of compression process modes.

Accordingly, applied prior art does not teach or suggest the combinations of claims 2 – 5.

Claim 6 has been amended in a manner analogous to claim 1, and is thus also patentable over the applied art.

Claim 7 is a method claim that is analogous to claim 1, and has been amended in a manner analogous to claim 1, and is thus also patentable over the applied art.

Claims 8 - 11 are method claims that are analogous to claim 2 - 5, and have been amended in a manner analogous to claims 2 - 5, and are thus also patentable over the applied art.

Claims 12 - 16 recite computer-readable mediums encoded with computer-readable instructions. The claims are comparable to claims 7 - 11, and are thus also patentable over the applied art.

New claim 40 is comparable to claim 5, and is thus also patentable over the applied art.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections. In the event that there are any questions concerning the

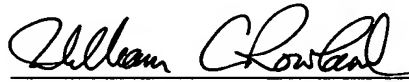
amendments, or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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